



DCoC/JA NFPs Extraordinary Meeting No 7

Virtual via Teams

Wednesday, 9 July 2025

Record of the Meeting

1. The Signatory States of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and its Jeddah Amendment (hereinafter referred to as the DCoC/JA), along with states eligible to sign these instruments (hereinafter collectively referred to as 'Participants'), met through their National Focal Points (NFPs) to discuss and plan upcoming activities for the implementation of the DCoC/JA in 2025 and beyond. The meeting was held virtually via TEAMS on Wednesday, 9 July 2025.

2. The meeting was attended by participants from the following Signatory States:

BAHRAIN	COMOROS	ETHIOPIA	JORDAN
KENYA	MADAGASCAR	MAURITIUS	MOZAMBIQUE
OMAN	SEYCHELLES	SOMALIA	SOUTH AFRICA
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA	YEMEN		

The full list of participants is attached as **ANNEX A**.

Aim

3. The aim of the meeting was to set the DCoC agenda for the second half of 2025 and beyond, with particular emphasis on aligning activities with ongoing and upcoming initiatives. A key purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the EU-funded *Safe Seas for Africa Project* and the *Crisis Response Project for the Red Sea and the Western Indian Ocean (CRP REDWIO)*, both of which aim to enhance maritime security coordination, inter-agency collaboration, and regional ownership.

4. Working Groups 1 and 2 were tasked to deliberate on the opportunities presented by these projects, assess progress made so far, and identify priority actions to ensure effective implementation under the DCoC framework. The agenda is attached as **ANNEX B**.

Welcome Remarks from the Secretariat

5. Mr. Kiruja Micheni welcomed all participants and thanked them for their presence and unwavering dedication, noting that the meeting was a follow-up to the discussions held in March.

6. He explained that the session would begin with brief remarks from the DCoC Secretariat and Working Group Chairs, followed by a presentation on the two newly signed

EU-funded projects: Safe Seas for Africa (SSA) and the Crisis Response Project (CRP). The meeting would conclude with a plenary discussion on the projects and updates on an upcoming initiative being discussed with Denmark.

7. He recalled that significant progress was made following the London meeting, which led to the development and successful funding of two key EU-supported projects. The SSA project is being delivered jointly with implementing partners such as UNODC and INTERPOL, with a focus on enhancing maritime security coordination and capacity building across the region.

8. He noted that the second project—the Crisis Response Project—is especially significant for DCoC member states as it includes a broader range of activities to reinforce the regional information-sharing network. In addition, discussions are ongoing with the Government of Denmark regarding another proposal that would support the eight-point plan, with a specific focus on strengthening maritime security in Somalia. Mr. Micheni expressed optimism about these developments and reiterated the importance of collective engagement and ownership in advancing the DCoC's maritime security agenda.

Opportunities for the Enhancement of the DCoC Information Sharing Network and Capacity Building Coordination under the Safe Seas for Africa and Crisis Response projects.

9. Captain Yeslem Mubark, (Yemen) briefed participants on key developments on Information Sharing under the EU-funded Safe Seas for Africa (SSA) and Crisis Response projects. He highlighted support for establishing National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs) in Tanzania, Mauritius, and Kenya, as well as upcoming strategic meetings with Egypt to support the development of a Regional Maritime Security Strategy. He also noted scheduled coordination events, including the Maritime Information Sharing Workshop in India and the SHADE conference in October 2025. The High-Level Meeting, to be held in Mauritius in November with EU support, will focus on enhancing information sharing for a legal finish.

10. He further noted that under the Crisis Response Project, Yemen will receive support through national workshops, mentorship by the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center (RMIFC) in Madagascar, and one-year salary coverage for NMISC staff. Enhancements to the DCoC website and Members-Only Portal are underway. Deliverables include a project monitoring tool and a feedback mechanism to track the impact of capacity-building initiatives. India has recommended reorganizing the Capacity Building Matrix into standardized categories: capabilities development, capacity building, and operational coordination, aligned with Working Group 3. His remarks are attached as **ANNEX C**.

11. Captain Daniel Adam, (Seychelles) informed the meeting that work on Capacity Building Coordination had commenced under the SSA and the CRP-RedWIO projects, with both now in their inception phases. SSA activities were underway with the activation of the three thematic sub-working groups under WG2—on IUU fishing, port and ship security, and marine environmental protection—expected in coming days. The *Crisis Response Project* will provide capacity-building support, including equipment and training for NMISCs and coastguards in Djibouti and Yemen, with assessments scheduled for later in the year.

12. Preparations were in progress for the first Working Group 3 meeting on operational coordination, set for September in Mombasa, Kenya. A regional Vessels of Interest (VOI) database was proposed for development. Under the proposed Danish project, Somalia's

NMISC will be co-located with the MRCC in Mogadishu alongside ISPS Code implementation at the port of Mogadishu. His remarks are attached as **ANNEX D**.

13. Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada (RSA), speaking on behalf of the Chair, commended the launch of the Safe Seas for Africa project and thanked Working Group Chairs and NFPs for their efforts. She also noted the Crisis Response Project remains in its early stages and emphasized the need for strong connectivity between National Maritime Information Sharing Centres. Citing recent Red Sea attacks, she echoed the UN Secretary-General's call for intensified diplomatic coordination and urged participants to use the upcoming Working Group 3 meeting to strengthen operational ties with regional navies.

14. She also referenced the forthcoming 8th High-Level Meeting scheduled for November and encouraged all NFPs to read and share the latest DCoC newsletter, highlighting its focus on gender inclusion and the valuable contributions of women in maritime security. She called on Member States to actively update the Capacity Building Matrix to support cooperation and help identify where assistance is most needed.

Progress Updates on the Implementation of the New Regional Projects - SSA, Crisis Response Projects

15. Ms. Winnie Maina (IMO) expanded on the progress updates provided regarding the projects mentioned and highlighted the planned implementation timelines set for 2025.

- .1 The Safe Seas for Africa (SSA) Project, funded by the EU with a budget of 1 million Euros, is being implemented in collaboration with UNODC, INTERPOL, and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). This three-year initiative is designed to enhance intra-agency, inter-agency, and inter-regional coordination, with Kenya, Mauritius, and Tanzania identified as key beneficiaries. One of the core deliverables is the development of a DCoC Engagement Strategy to improve coordination, communication, and alignment across actors, and avoid duplication of efforts. The inception phase will take place in Mombasa, Tanzania, and Mauritius during July and August 2025, with engagement work underway and partner feedback awaited. Workplan alignment and deconfliction discussions with IOC are also scheduled for August 2025.
- .2 The SSA project will further support the finalization of Kenya's National Maritime Security Strategy (NMSS), with activities scheduled in August 2025. Enhancements to the Capacity Building Matrix—designed to track progress, consolidate partner efforts, and inform regional priorities—are also planned for August, with technical support from India and a consultant. The project continues to support the coordination and tracking of High-Level Meeting (HLM) recommendations, with preparations underway for the 2025 HLM, where a framework to assess vulnerabilities and strengthen operational coordination is expected to be adopted. Formal approval is still pending from the Government of Mauritius to host the event.
- .3 The second initiative, the Crisis Response – Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean Project (CRP-RedWIO), is an 18-month, €4 million EU-funded programme implemented by IMO in partnership with Expertise France (CRIMARIO) and UNODC. Of this, €1.5 million is allocated to IMO to strengthen information sharing through the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) framework and support regional maritime security efforts. The contract was officially signed on 16 June 2025, paving the way for

implementation. The Inception Phase will now begin, during which individual beneficiary countries will be engaged to agree on work plans and deliverables. Internal IMO processes are underway, and the transfer of funds is currently pending.

- .4 A consultant will support the development of a Regional Maritime Security Strategy (RMSS), with Saudi Arabia under consideration to host a dedicated workshop, pending final approval. Ten beneficiary countries will receive tailored technical support, including capability assessments for their National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs), Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) domestication, and the provision of targeted equipment. The project also includes two regional workshops to operationalize Working Group 3 (WG3) and finalize its Terms of Reference. Additional deliverables include support to Yemen to reestablish its ReMISC, contributing to the broader regional Information Sharing Network (ISN). Furthermore, the development of a common lexicon is planned to enhance shared understanding and communication across the region. Her briefing notes are attached as **ANNEX E**.

16. Mr. Micheni (IMO) further highlighted the importance of the DCoC Engagement Strategy in ensuring regional states play a central role in maritime security discussions, which have long been dominated by international actors. The strategy aims to re-engage less active members like Egypt, strengthen ties with Gulf states, and improve collaboration with naval forces to address legal and operational gaps.

17. Ms. Esther Kung'u (IMO) briefed the meeting that the Capacity Building Matrix will be enhanced and linked to the Engagement Strategy, featuring a framework to track implementation of High-Level Meeting outcomes and an automated feedback tool for partners. Interviews and surveys will be conducted to assess progress since 2009, with technical support from India and a new service provider to help standardize data for better impact measurement and partner visibility.

Progress Updates on the proposed Danish Project by the Secretariat

18. Ms. Winnie Maina informed the meeting of ongoing negotiations with the Government of Denmark on the proposed two-year Peace and Support Programme aimed at strengthening maritime security in Somalia and Kenya. The project is currently in its final stages of discussion, with a focus on aligning efforts with existing regional initiatives, including the Red Sea Project. The project's support would focus on enhancing Somalia's maritime security architecture through the operationalization of its National Maritime Information Sharing Centre (NMISC), implementation of the ISPS Code at Mogadishu Port, and the development of Port Facility Security Assessments (PFSAs) and Port Facility Security Plans (PFSPs). Additional support includes equipment for Somalia's newly established Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) and mentorship opportunities at the Regional MRCC (RMRCC) in Kenya. This initiative aims to strengthen the MRCC's operational effectiveness and ensure long-term sustainability.

19. For Kenya, the programme envisions support for the implementation of its National Maritime Security Strategy (NMSS), including targeted assistance to its NMISC through SOP domestication and the mentorship of its personnel at the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) in Seychelles. Once finalized, further details of this Denmark-supported

initiative will be shared with all DCoC Member States. Her additional remarks are attached as **ANNEX E**.

Plenary

20. Mr. Kiruja Micheni informed the meeting that the Working Group 3 workshop will be held from 1 to 4 September 2025 at Serena Beach Hotel, Mombasa, following a change of venue to better accommodate participants.

21. A consultant had been identified, and preparations were underway to develop draft Terms of Reference and a Concept of Operations for discussion and possible adoption during the workshop. He emphasized the strategic importance of WG3—particularly its relevance to operational coordination and legal finish—and urged National Focal Points (NFPs) to confirm the availability of their nominees, especially representatives from their Navy or Coast Guard, given the high level of interest from regional and international stakeholders.

22. Ms. Winnie Maina reminded NFPs to communicate any changes to their nomination lists by 21 July 2025 to finalize administrative processes. She confirmed that all countries had submitted nominations and reiterated the importance of broad national engagement in the upcoming workshop. Mr. Micheni concluded by urging NFPs to act as ambassadors in their countries, sensitizing relevant authorities to ensure strong, multisectoral participation.

23. The Chair requested an update on the Regional Maritime Security Strategy (RMSS) workshop following the briefing on Working Group 3. IMO confirmed that funding for the consultancy was secured under the Crisis Response Project, with the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) selected as the technical partner. Saudi Arabia was proposed as the host for a mid-September workshop, but confirmation was pending. The Chair recommended for the preparation of alternative dates which would be shared with NFPs once formal approval was received.

24. Capt. Jean Edmond Randrianantenaina (Madagascar) raised an urgent plea regarding a missing Malagasy-flagged vessel, *AW*, carrying 30 people. The vessel departed Mahajanga, Madagascar on 16 June and was expected in Anjouan, Comoros by 19 June, but has since disappeared. Despite extensive search efforts by air and maritime assets, no confirmed sightings have been made. Recently, unverified social media reports have suggested the vessel, and its crew may have been spotted in Somalia or Tanzania. He appealed to National Focal Points (NFPs)—especially from Somalia, Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Comoros, Seychelles, and Mauritius—to engage their national authorities, activate maritime coordination channels, and share any credible updates to support the investigation and reassure the anxious families.

25. Responding to the request, Mr. Yonis Adan of Somalia emphasized that the Somali authorities have not closed the case and are still actively monitoring the situation. He warned against relying on misinformation from social media, which often circulates exaggerated or false claims. Mr. Adan reaffirmed that the Somali government remains committed to sharing verified information through official channels and stressed the importance of patience as investigations continue. He added that Somalia's southern maritime domain remains secure, with capable naval forces cooperating closely with regional partners like Kenya. He assured the meeting that once confirmed information becomes available—whether regarding the vessel's location or the status of its passengers will be communicated promptly to relevant parties.

Summary of Deliberations

27. Alternative dates for the RMSS workshop will be proposed, and HLM preparations are underway.
28. Somalia and Kenya were requested to assist Madagascar in the AW missing vessel case; other coastal states were urged to respond. Countries were reminded to update their matrix and website profiles.
29. WG1 and WG2 were commended, and NFPs encouraged to follow through on commitments.
30. The upcoming DCoC website redesign was highlighted as a platform to centralize updates, attract donors, and track progress.
31. The Crisis Response Project has been promoted on social media, with materials translated into Arabic. NFPs were asked to support further translations of the Safe Seas for Africa project into Arabic and French.
32. Saudi Arabia's support was acknowledged, and participants were urged to promote the projects to raise visibility and highlight national leadership.

Vote of thanks:

33. The Chair thanked the Secretariat and Working Group Chairs for their efforts and called on all NFPs to actively implement DCoC resolutions moving forward.
31. With no further discussions, the meeting was officially adjourned at 1540 hours EAT.

ANNEXES:

- **ANNEX A- List of Participants**
- **ANNEX B- Agenda**
- **ANNEX C- Opportunities for the Enhancement of the DCoC Information Sharing Network by Capt. Yeslem Mubark, Yemen**
- **ANNEX D - Opportunities for the Enhancement of the Capacity Building Coordination by Capt. Daniel Adam, Seychelles**
- **ANNEX E - Progress Updates on the Implementation of the New Regional Projects - SSA, Crisis Response Projects**

ANNEX A- List of Participants

No	Name	Country
1.	Capt. Nayef Issa Mohammed	Bahrain
2.	Anfifidine Ali Toihr	Comoros

3.	Capt. Kibru Mesfin	Ethiopia
4.	Eng. Gaith Ameen	Jordan
5.	Eng. Abed Aldabet	Jordan
6.	Ian Kanyi	Kenya
7.	Grace Muli	Kenya
8.	Capt. Jean Edmond Randrianantenaina	Madagascar
9.	Capt. Asiva Coopen	Mauritius
10.	Captain Carlos Cossa	Mozambique
11.	Lieutenant Colonel Haitham Al-Jasser	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
12.	Eng. Feras Alsamadani	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
13.	Yonis Adan	Somalia
14.	Mashudu Nepfumbada	Republic of South Africa
15.	Capt Daniel Adam	Seychelles
16.	Mohammed Almagashi	Yemen
17.	Capt Yeslem Mubark	Yemen
18.	Kiruja Micheni	IMO
19.	Winnie Maina	IMO
20.	Esther K (Njonde)	IMO

ANNEX B - Agenda

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-NFPs-Meeting-held-on-Teams-on-9-July-2025.pdf>

ANNEX C – Opportunities for the Enhancement of the DCoC Information Sharing Network by Capt. Yeslem Mubark, Yemen

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Talking-Points-for-WG-1-on-Information-Sharing-9-July-2025.pdf>

ANNEX D - Opportunities for the Enhancement of the Capacity Building Coordination by Capt. Daniel Adam, Seychelles

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Talking-Points-for-WG-2-on-Capacity-Building-Coordination-9-July-2025.pdf>

Annex E - Progress Updates on the Implementation of the New Regional Projects - SSA, Crisis Response Projects and the proposed Danish project.

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Talking-Points-Progress-Updates-on-New-and-Proposed-Projects-9-July-2025.pdf>
